

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 EB-08 /108 W

-----112351 252033Z /72

R 251110Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8551

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS TEHRAN 05032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, IR

SUBJ: GOI FOREIGN MINISTER ON RCD, TURKEY-NATO AND

AFGHANISTAN

1. SPEAKING UPON HIS RETURN FROM ANKARA MAY 24 FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY CHARACTERIZED RCD MINISTERIAL MEETING AS "USEFUL". WHILE NO SPECIFIC PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED, TENTATIVE PLANS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN FORMULATED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN RCD INVESTMENT BANK TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE MEMBER COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO THE EARLIER IZMIR HEADS OF STATE MEETING KHALATBARY SAID THAT "RCD HAS NOT YET FULFILLED ITS COMMITMENTS TAKEN AT THAT CONFERENCE".

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION REGARDING TURKISH-NATO RELATIONS THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT TURKEY IS LEANING TOWARDS THE EAST BLOC, "THESE CHANGES ARE NOT MEANT TO BE UNFRIENDLY SIGNS OF REVENGE AIMED AGAINST ANYONE." HE ADDED THAT, "WE HOPE TO INITIATE CLOSER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES".

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3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, KHALATBARY RESPONDED THAT "TARAKI HAS PLEDGED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US AND THE OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" AND "WE ARE WATCHING CLOSELY ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN THAT MIGHT GIVE US A CLEARER PICTURE OF KABUL'S NEW POLITICAL POSTURES".

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND PROPOSALS FOR FREE TRADE AMONG RCD COUNTRIES WERE PRESENTED FOR RATIFICATION TO IRANIAN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY. MEANWHILE LOCAL PRESS ARTICLES IN WAKE OF MINISTERIAL HAVE TENDED TO FEATURE "UNFULFILLED HOPE" THEME WHEN COMMENTING ON RCD EDFORTS AT INCREASING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN05032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780221-0787
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780517/aaaaaocv.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1b723096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2560576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI FOREIGN MINISTER ON RCD, TURKEY-NATO AND AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, IR, TU, (KHALATBARI, ABAS ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1b723096-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014